

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the non-final Action of October 6, 2003. A petition to extend the time for filing this response to within the second extended month accompanies this submission. It is submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance because of the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner in the pending Actoin. That indication is acknowledged with appreciation.

At the time of the Action, claims 1 to 34 were pending. Of those claims, claims 5, 7 and 18 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Thus, claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's reasons for allowance with respect to allowable Claim 7. Likewise, Claim 11 has been rewritten according to the reasons for allowance with respect to allowable Claim 18. Claims 27-34 have been added according to the reasons for allowance with respect to allowable Claim 5. In view of the amendments to the claim language, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 to 6, 9 to 17, 19 to 24, and 27 to 34 overcome the Examiner's rejections and cited art and places the application in a condition for allowance.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended with the subject matter of allowable claim 7, and claim 7 is canceled. Thus, claims 1 to 6, 8, 22, 23, and 24 are now allowable as dependent on an allowable base claim 1. Similarly, claim 11 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 18, claim 18 is canceled, so that amended claim 11 is allowable, as are its dependent claims 12 to 17 and 19.

Claims 25 and 26, though rejected on the basis of four references, whose motivation to combine is suspect, are here canceled to expedite close of prosecution of this application in view of the allowance of claim 5 as well. Thus, a new independent claim 27, like claims 1 and 5 combined, is presented in a form that is prima facie allowable because of the presence of the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Claims 28 to 34 are similar to other pendent claims, but are dependent on allowable claim 27.

Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable over the art of record, at least for the reasons indicated for allowable subject matter by the examiner in the fourth, non-final Action to which this amendment is responsive.

Early Notice of Allowance is suggested.

CONCLUSION

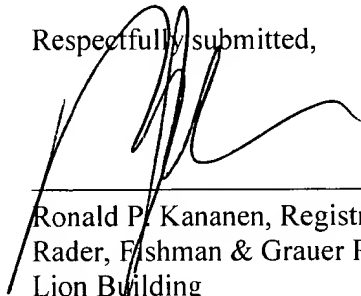
For at least these reasons, this application is now in condition for allowance. It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified in any transmittal accompanying this paper.

However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper that are not identified in any accompanying transmittal, permission is given to charge account number 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman and Grauer PLLC.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is kindly urged to call the undersigned to facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 11, 2004



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